SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 31 JULY 2005

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on Echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

In the news today:

CALL TO UPDATE REPEATER INFORMATION ON THE SARL WEBSITE

DIVISIONAL ADVISORS WANTED FOR REPEATERS AND BAND PLANNING

SARL IARU FUND NOW OVER R21 000

FULL RTA OPEN DAY PROGRAMME NOW AVAILABLE

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items. Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office, which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARLNews depends on clubs and individuals for news of interest to radio amateurs. The one and only way to ensure that your contribution reaches SARLNews is to place it in the correct place on web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It will also be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

The news follows in detail.

CALL TO UPDATE REPEATER INFORMATION ON THE SARL WEBSITE

The database of repeaters on the SARL website now contains information regarding 130 repeaters, beacons, BBSs etc around the country.

Repeater owners and managers who have not yet done so are requested to add their information to the database. If you have recently made any changes to your repeaters, please update the information via the website. If you do not have access to the internet, please mail your information to SARL at PO Box 1721, Strubensvallei, 1735.

DIVISIONAL ADVISORS WANTED FOR REPEATERS AND BAND PLANNING

SARL members are invited to assist with the management and upliftment of the network of repeaters, beacons, BBSs, etc around South Africa. Volunteers

are urgently needed to provide a link between the SARL Council and Radio Amateurs in each division.

Divisional Advisors will participate in regular teleconferences to coordinate local activities and provide input on matters which require attention by Council, and obtain direct input from Council for local dissemination. More than one Advisor may be appointed in the larger Divisions.

If you are active in local repeater administration or planning, and would like to contribute, please register as a Divisional Advisor on the SARL website, or contact Peter Hers at 083 445 4634 or email zs6phd@mweb.co.za.

SARL IARU FUND NOW OVER R21 000

Over the past few weeks contributions to the SARL IARU fund have been boosted by R2 440 bringing the total to R21 101. The 2005 IARU fees have been paid. With the favourable exchange rate the fees amounted to R10 488 which leaves R10 650 for the delegates' travelling fund. Thanks to all who have contributed. Your support is much appreciated. An updated list of donors is available on www.amateuradio.org.za.

The SARL council has decided that three delegates will be attending the important IARU region 1 conference. They are Graham Hartlett, ZS6GJH, Dennis Green, ZS4BS, and John Fielding, ZS5JF. Although John is not currently a Councillor he will be assisting Council by attending the conference to present three SARL papers dealing with important VHF issues and to attend committee C5 meetings which deal with VHF, UHF and Microwave communication. The papers are available on www.sarl.org.za. John will be in Europe on a family visit which means that the SARL will only have to meet his local expenses at the IARU conference.

Dennis will spend most of his time on HF matters (Committee C4) and some of the sub committee meetings while Graham Hartlett will head up the delegation and attend the finance committee and committee C3 and be the spokesperson at the plenary meetings.

The agenda and papers are available on www.iaru-r1.org. The total file is 24 MB. The three delegates will have a busy time with meetings scheduled till late every evening. Councillors are currently working through the documents and will highlight important issues in SARL News, on the web and during the next two President nets.

FULL RTA OPEN DAY PROGRAMME NOW AVAILABLE

The full SARL Radio Technology in Action open day programme is now available on the web. By popular request the flea market will be open from 08:00 to set up. Selling starts at 09:00. Tables are available at R20 each and must be booked by calling Vee at 011 675 2393 or sending an email to admin@sarl.org.za.

The entrance fee to the RTA Open day is R20 for adults which include entry into the attendance prize draw which takes place at the final plenary session.

Scholars and students enter free but do not qualify for the attendance prize draw. The Sentech restaurant will be open for refreshments and lunches throughout the day.

The lecture programme starts at 10:00. A special construction class for young people has been added where they get hands-on experience building a wireless FM microphone. The cost of the kit is R30. Only a limited number can be accommodated so pre-booking is essential, call Vee at 011 675 2393. Another popular presentation is the Introduction to Amateur Satellites by Dave Long, ZS5FR, a must if you would like to get involved with amateur satellites.

Diarise the 20th of August to be at the Amateur Radio event of the year.

24 GHz ZS RECORD EXTENDED TO 56 km

On Thursday 28 July at 12:40 CAT Ivo Chladek, ZS6AXT, and Jon Sygo, ZS6JON, set a new 24 GHz record of 56,2 km breaking their previous record by a few kilometres. The contact was witnessed by ZS6LES and ZS6OB. Signals were 52 on SSB. At 12:10 a test over a 52 km distance from a higher portable position resulted in 59 +20 dB signals on SSB.

Tests earlier that morning over 150 km distance were not successful because of the prevailing high humidity. Water vapour attenuates signals on 24 GHz. The equipment operated was the same equipment used to set up the previous record. It delivers 2,5 W into 30 cm dishes.

Ivo and Jon will now improve their equipment by adding highly stable temperature compensated crystal oscillators to both transverters to eliminate the need for "chasing" the signals due to frequency shift of the crystal oscillators in the Phase Lock Loop circuit as a result of changing temperature.

Congratulations to both experimenters. Well done!

BARK 40 m COMPETITION - FEEDBACK

Thanks a lot to all the stations that participated in the BARK 40 m competition last Sunday. Logs may still be sent till Monday 9th August. Logs have already been received from all over the country. Logs may be emailed to zs1bak@mailbox.co.za or mailed to BARK, P O Box 2 105, Dennesig, 7 601. The preliminary result will be announced soon threafter.

BIRTH OF THE MIDLANDS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S WEB SITE

The Midlands Amateur Radio Club of Kwa-Zulu Natal is pleased to announce the birth of their own website. Please visit this site and leave your comments. The url is www.pmbcomp.co.za/marc.

THE BLIND NAVIGATORS' TRAIL

This event will again take place in and around George/Mossel Bay area on the 7th of August 2005. Like in the previous year the local Hams have been asked

to provide communication, and they are currently busy with the organizing thereof.

Background. The event is definitely a “friendly” event organized for the benefit of the blind navigators, but it is still a competition and obviously they would all like to win.

To ensure that they all play the same game (and keep the court cases down to a minimum….!) some strict rules will apply and some are highlighted in order to put readers in the picture. (1) Competitors must obey all traffic rules and drive carefully, and all participants must sign indemnities. (2) At the start control competitors will receive a route schedule in BRAILLE and sighted persons will receive a normal WRITTEN route schedule, giving times, direction and speeds. Drivers may not write down any part of the schedule - the idea is to receive the information from the blind navigator next to you. Any driver found contravening this rule will be disqualified. (3) The event runs according to RALLY TIME, which means that each car will depart from the start control with his clock set to zero hours, zero minutes and zero seconds. All watches are PRE-SET to the correct rally time for each car, with a gap of two minutes between cars. (4) Normal procedures will apply at all control points with time checks etc. (5) Then follows a couple of finer rules regarding penalty points, getting lost, reporting to radio marshalls if in trouble, not to use cellular phones etc.etc, and finally -be kind to your navigator. Demonstrate how the seatbelt work and where to find things like door handles and window winders. Tell them about sudden turns or bumpy sections and explain as much as you can about where you are and what you are doing. Always keep in mind that you are the blind navigator’s eyes in this event.

Well that in short is what the rally is all about, and by comparing the figures of last year’s event with this year’s we are certainly in for another big blind navigators trail.

The event is sponsored by the EDEN MOTORSPORT CLUB of George, who is a member of the South African Motorsport Association (MSA), and the numerous sponsors of George, we would like to thank the organizer, Les Johnstone, for the privilege as Radio Hams to participate in this event, and render our services as communicators to the blind people of South Africa.

PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON AIR - IRLP

A new adventure of the hobby is up and running in CHINA.

Michael, W7RAT, who has for some time been trying to get IRLP going in China has now succeeded. The call sign is BY/W7RAT, node 3374. IRLP operators are encourged to call the node up. More informatin will be providedat at a later date.

Congratulations to Michael for all his efforts in getting IRLP going in China.

PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

What follows is a summary of what has again been obtained from the ARRL's newsletter. It says that we are coming to the end of a month of large contrasts in terms of solar activity. Around July 4 there was a huge increase in sunspot numbers, followed by a very quiet period in which no sunspots were seen.. We are most concerned with sunspots near the sun's equator, because they are in the most "geoeffective" or Earth-affecting position compared to those at higher latitudes.

Watch for sunspot and solar flux numbers to rise over the next few days, peaking from August 1 until August 6 as the previous month's spotted region returns to view. Geomagnetic indices should drop and stay low.

Over the long term, the general direction of the cycle is down, although variations such as the increased activity around July 4 are occasionally observed. Sunspots are predicted to rise again to the current level around Decemer 2007. Thus, be patient, but always be on the lookout for surprises.

DIARY OF EVENTS

31 July - Closing date for Siemens Radio Amateur of the Year nominations; 1 August - Closing date for nominations for the Siemens Radio Amateur of the Year Awards; 7 August - SARL HF Phone Contest; 7 August - President's Net and Intechnet; 8 August - Last day for nominations for the amateur radio community service award; 20 August - RTA Open day at the NARC; 3 September - Mega flea market arranged by the Pretoria ARC, more information in following bulletins.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read by …….from…… as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

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